

Caution concerning chemical use on soybeans to be harvested for hay.

Dr. Matt Poore, Dr. Alan York and Dr. Jim Green
NC Cooperative Extension
NCSU

When considering the harvesting and feeding of soybeans for hay one should be aware of the label restrictions for pesticides used on the crop. If soybeans are specifically planted for hay the grower should use only chemicals that have a label statement that the forage can be fed. Those wishing to harvest drought damaged soybeans for hay should check the label of any chemical they have used for restrictions on feeding. Many herbicide labels have restrictions that do not allow feeding of hay from treated soybeans. Some herbicides have no restrictions, while others have 14 to 70 day restrictions between treatment and harvest.

We have had many inquiries about the use of the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup and many other brands), because over 80% of the state's acreage is in Roundup-Ready beans. There is a 14-day restriction between last application of glyphosate and harvest for hay. In many cases, glyphosate is tank mixed with other chemicals that have a restriction, so keep that in mind. These common chemicals used in tank mixes include chlorimuron ethyl (Classic) or flumiclorac pentyl ester (Resource), both of which have labels that say do not harvest and feed for forage, and cloransulam-methyl (Amplify and FirstRate) which has a 14-day waiting period.

Chemicals that have no restrictions listed on the label mentioning hay feeding include: pendimethalin (Pendimax and Prowl), s-metolachlor (Dual Magnum, Dual II Magnum), sethoxydim (Post, Post-plus) and trifluralon (Treflan, Trilin and others). Other chemicals that have a waiting time include: bentazon (Basagran; 30 days), metribuzin (Sencor; 40 days pre-emergence, 70 days post-emergence directed), and 2-4DB (numerous brands; 60 days).

Most other chemicals have labels that specifically state that hay should not be fed. This is because most companies have not gone to the expense of doing the research that shows their product will not be toxic to cattle, and will lead to no milk or tissue residues when cattle are fed hay made from soybeans to which the product has been applied. For more information and a complete list of chemicals and label restrictions contact your extension agent.